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## NOTE

## TO ARTICLE V. OF THE PRESENT NUMBER.

THE last accounts from Upper Canada would seem to threaten a less peaceable state of things for the coming winter, than we have been anticipating. "In September or October," say the high Tory papers, "the invasions are to commence. Winter is not to be waited for, this time; and the attack is to be as much more formidable than before, as it is earlier." An unlikely tale enough. Still, its authors claim to speak on authority; and there are not wanting ambiguous intimations to the same effect, from parties on this side the line, supposed to be in all the secrets of the "Patriot" cause.

In 1837, the Canadian insurgents doubtless carried with them the honest sympathies of a very large proportion of our frontier population. The British nation feels no shame for its sympathy with Greece and Poland; and ours need feel none, for this their early interest in the supposed parallel case of Canada. As for the Navy Island and other movements of that winter, they are quite another thing. The honest sympathy we speak of gave *opportunity* for them, but was not their *cause*. The leaders in these affairs belonged to a class, whose sympathies are of a very different stamp; and their doings, and the number and general character of their followers, were worthy of their motives. Last winter's movements had little or no connexion with any general popular feeling on Canadian affairs. This feeling, indeed, was fast subsiding, and could hardly then be called a popular feeling at all. Take them for all in all, the "Hunters' lodges" were as thorough a hoax, on a large scale, as has been played off these many years. Of the many, whose names figured on the lodge-books, a small number, only, ever thought to raise a finger "in the beaten way" of fighting; and, even of that small number, the zeal of most needed little cooling. The hostility of the Upper Canadians was no sooner proved, than it was found efficient to this end. Sir George's spies, by the information they gave, cost Canada a world of useless alarm, and Great Britain a goodly amount of gold. Less than half the arming, drilling, marching, and paying, that grew out of it, would amply have sufficed to secure the provinces from any second Prescott expedition.

As regards the coming winter, two things are tolerably certain; first, that there is now no *general* feeling of interest in the Patriot cause, even along our frontier, and no approach to it in any other part of the country; and, second, that in Canada,

as well as on our frontier, there is a class of men who desire war, and are bent on mischief. On our side, these men take the name of "Patriots." Some of them, — by no means a majority, — are from Canada ; very few, Canadians or Americans, are of a character to do any honor to any cause. The better class of refugees and emigrants from Canada (and this class is far from small) have no dealings with them. In Canada, no party is more averse to the war-clamor, or more sincerely deprecates "patriot" expeditions, than the intelligent liberal party of the Upper Province. Engaged in a political struggle, in which success is all-important to them, and with a fair prospect, to say the least, if they can but have fair play, they see in this brigand movement the one great obstacle in the way of their success. The High Church Oligarchy, and their adherents, are the only party that gain by it. It gives them what they most stand in need of, — a hold on the public mind. It casts an odium on the cause they fear and hate, and enables them to vilify and harass the friends of liberal and good government in the province, by ascribing to them the actions they most deprecate. No wonder it is this party, that is ever most ready with false rumors of fresh risings and invasions. The friends of liberal principles will surely not be guilty of the folly of playing into their hands.

Of the general result of the discussions, at present going on in the provinces, provided they are left to their natural course, no great doubt can be entertained. The four lower provinces have each a House of Assembly, pledged by their past course, to support the Durham recommendation of "responsible government"; and in each the great body of the people holds, and has long held, the same doctrine. Lower Canada has, strictly speaking, no *political* parties at all. The English race, in general, for the present, looks at the "responsible government" project with disfavor ; but this is just because, in times past, the other race has demanded it. Unite the provinces, and so put *their* race in the majority ; and in a very short time they will be the first to insist upon it. In Upper Canada, all parties may, in point of fact, be said to insist on it already. The high Tories object to it in name, and that with no little clamor ; but they are as warm, as any of their neighbours, against Imperial interference, the moment it affects themselves. *Au reste*, the open secession of their allies of all shades, — the allies by whose aid alone they were victorious at the last election, — threatens their party with political annihilation at the next.

The British government, we have remarked, has pronounced itself against the concession of this principle of "*local* in-

dependence," as it is sometimes termed. On this point, we should speak with caution. Lord Normanby, the head of the colonial department, in his last speeches in the House of Lords, has expressed himself in more favorable terms, than were used by Lord John Russell, in the Commons. The ministry, it would seem, are tolerably ready to concede the point *in practice*, so soon as it shall be asked in earnest. Their objection seems to be to the bonâ fide avowal of the *principle*, in a Parliament, where their political antagonists are so powerful, and so inveterate against them.

The fate of the union project is not altogether so certain. The union of the six provinces, recommended by Lord Durham, has not been much discussed ; for the reason, no doubt, that the ministerial measure contemplates only a union of the Canadas. To this latter measure, there are some most serious objections, on the score of policy ; and several parties in the Canadas are altogether hostile to it. The ministerial bill, as a whole, we believe almost all parties condemn, on one account or other. It is clear, that it must undergo essential changes, to make it generally acceptable. The question is, whether any plan for a mere union of the Canadas can be made so.

While the proof sheet of the above remarks is before us, we hear, by the arrival of the *British Queen* steam-ship, of the exchange of departments between Lord Normanby and Lord John Russell. We do not suppose this change, of itself, is likely to have much effect as regards the character of the ministerial measures. But, as leader of the House of Commons, Lord John has long been the most prominent member of the present Cabinet ; indeed, he has always been understood to be in every way the most effective man in it. So that his assumption of the duties of the Colonial department, must be regarded as a declaration on the part of the ministry, of their sense of the paramount importance, at the present crisis, of the Colonial politics of the Empire. It holds out to the provinces the promise of having their affairs effectively attended to. A new Governor-general, too, is on his way to Quebec ; a civil, in place of a military, governor. This is well. The difficulty is one which needs a statesman's hand to remove it, not a soldier's ; and as Mr. Poulett Thompson leaves the Cabinet to undertake his present mission, it is to be presumed he comes out with a full understanding, on his part, of their views, and full confidence, on their side, in his.

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